United Nations E/CN.9/2009/6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 January 2009

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-second session
30 March-3 April 2009
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

World demographic trends

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, which has been prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/2, reviews demographic trends and prospects worldwide, including for development groups and major areas. It discusses changes in population size and growth, fertility and contraception, mortality, international migration, population ageing and urbanization, including the population policies related to those changes.

Today, the world population is 6.8 billion; it is projected to stand at 9 billion in 2045 if fertility continues to decline in developing countries. Expected population growth varies considerably among countries. High population growth is expected in several developing countries, while the population of developed countries will grow little, if at all. Varying fertility levels are the cause of those differences. Today, 86 countries, including 53 developed countries, have below-replacement fertility, while 42 developing countries, many of which are least developed, have total fertility above 4.0 children per woman.

In most of the world, longevity continues to increase. Life expectancy is estimated at 67.2 years globally, averaging 76.5 years in developed countries and 65.4 years in developing countries. In the least developed countries, two thirds of which are severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, life expectancy averages a low 54.6 years.

* E/CN.9/2009/1.

09-21052 (E) 050209

In future, the population will be older and more urban than it is today. Globally, the number of persons aged 60 or over will almost triple, reaching 2 billion in 2050. In 2008, for the first time in history, the global number of urban dwellers surpassed the number of rural inhabitants. Future population growth will be concentrated mainly in the urban areas of the developing world. By 2050, 70 per cent of the world population will likely be urban.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Population size and growth	4
III.	Levels and trends in fertility and contraception	6
IV.	Mortality trends and the impact of HIV/AIDS	9
V.	International migration	15
VI.	Population ageing	17
VII.	Urbanization	19
VIII.	Conclusions	21

Tables

1.	Population by major area, medium and constant fertility variants, selected years	5
2.	Total fertility for the world and major areas, 1965-1970, 2005-2010 and 2045-2050	7
3.	Period of maximum total fertility, onset of fertility decline and speed of fertility decline, selected areas	7
4.	Contraceptive use worldwide and by development group and major area, most recent date available	9
5.	Life expectancy at birth for both sexes combined by major area, selected periods	10
6.	Life expectancy at birth by sex and probability of survival, by major area, selected periods	12
7.	Under-5 mortality for both sexes combined, by major area, 1950-1995 and 2005-2010	14
8.	Estimated number of international migrants and their percentage distribution by major area, 1990-2010	15

Figures

I.	Difference between female and male life expectancy by development group, 1950-2010	12
II.	Map showing the number of international migrants as a percentage of the population, 2010	16
III.	Size and distribution of the population aged 60 or over, by development group, 1950, 2009 and 2050	18
IV.	Percentage of the population aged 60 or over, by major area, 1950, 2009 and 2050	18
V.	Urban and rural populations by development group, 1950-2050	20

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of demographic trends worldwide, including for major areas, development groups and selected countries. It reviews trends relating to population size and growth; fertility and contraception; mortality; international migration; population ageing, and urbanization. Trends are discussed on the basis of the information contained in *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision*[1] and *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision*,[2] prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Data on contraceptive use are based on the latest information included in the database maintained by the Population Division and published in *World Contraceptive Use 2007*.[3] Estimates of the number of international migrants are derived from *Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision*.[4] The information on population policies is derived from *World Population Policies 2007*,[5] the biennial survey of population policies prepared by the Population Division. The Population Division started monitoring national population policies after the adoption of the World Population Plan of Action in 1974 and has been carrying out this exercise periodically since then.

II. Population size and growth

2. In July 2009, the world population will stand at 6.8 billion and, according to the medium projection variant, is expected to reach 7 billion in 2012, 8 billion in 2025 and 9 billion in 2045. The increase in the length of the period required for each new billion to be added reflects a declining growth rate. In fact, the global population growth rate peaked in the period from 1965 to 1970 at 2 per cent annually and has been declining since then. For 2005-2010, it was estimated to be 1.17 per cent per year, and it is projected to reach a low 0.36 per cent per year in 2045-2050.

3. Population trends vary markedly at the country level. Developed countries are characterized by low mortality and very low fertility that is not sufficient to ensure the replacement of generations and will therefore eventually result in declining populations. Without gains from international migration, the populations of developed countries would soon be declining. With a projected net migration gain averaging 2.3 million migrants annually, the overall population of such countries is projected to increase slightly, from 1.23 billion in 2009 to a maximum of 1.26 billion in 2031, and to start declining thereafter, to reach 1.25 billion in 2050.

---

[1] *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision, vol. I, Comprehensive Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.2); *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision*, vol. II, *Sex and Age Distribution of the World Population* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.3); *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision, Comprehensive Dataset* (CD-ROM version) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.8).

[2] *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision, Highlights* (United Nations publication, ESA/P/WP/205), 2008; *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision* (CD-ROM version) (POP/DB/WUP/Rev.2007).

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.6.

[4] POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008.

[5] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.8.

4. In contrast, the population of the developing countries is growing robustly because their average fertility is still well above replacement level. From 2009 to 2050, their population is projected to increase by 2.3 billion, from 5.6 billion to 7.9 billion (see table 1). The population of the least developed countries, in particular, is expected to double, reaching 1.7 billion in 2050. Those projections are contingent on continued fertility reductions in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries, where total fertility is projected to drop from 4.6 to 2.5 children per woman between the periods 2005-2010 and 2045-2050. Without further fertility change, the population of the least developed countries could reach 2.8 billion in 2050.

5. The populous countries of Brazil, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan are expected to contribute 828 million inhabitants to the world population between 2009 and 2050, with their overall population increasing from 2 billion in 2009 to 2.8 billion in 2050. Were fertility levels in those countries to remain constant at 2000-2005 levels, their population would reach 3.9 billion in 2050. Constant fertility in the less developed regions would produce a population of 10.6 billion in 2050, 2.7 billion more than the estimate produced by the medium variant (7.9 billion). Therefore, in a constant fertility scenario, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan would account for 70 per cent of the projected population increase in the less developed regions.

Table 1
Population by major area, medium and constant fertility variants, selected years

	Population (millions)					
				2050		
Major area	*1950*	*1990*	*2009*	*Medium variant*	*Constant fertility variant*	*Difference*
World	2 535	5 295	6 828	9 191	11 858	2 666
More developed regions	814	1 149	1 229	1 245	1 218	-27
Less developed regions	1 722	4 146	5 599	7 946	10 639	2 693
Least developed countries	200	525	843	1 742	2 794	1 052
Other less developed countries	1 521	3 620	4 755	6 204	7 845	1 641
Africa	224	637	1 009	1 998	3 251	1 253
Asia	1 411	3 181	4 121	5 266	6 525	1 259
Europe	548	721	731	664	626	-38
Latin America and the Caribbean	168	444	587	769	939	170
Northern America	172	284	345	445	460	15
Oceania	13	27	35	49	57	8

Source: *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision*.

6. During the current period, 2005-2010, the world population is increasing by 78 million annually, 75 million of whom are being added to the less developed regions. It has been projected that by 2045-2050, the population of the less developed regions will be increasing by 33 million persons annually, whereas that of the more developed regions will be declining by about 1.3 million a year. Furthermore, whereas in 2005-2010 the annual population increment in the least developed countries accounts for 26 per cent of the increment in the less developed regions, by 2045-2050 that share is expected to rise to 61 per cent.

7. According to the medium variant, the population of 29 countries, most of which are least developed countries, is likely to double between 2009 and 2050. Four countries will gain more than 100 million persons: India, with a projected increase of 455 million; Nigeria, 134 million; Pakistan, 122 million; and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 120 million. Partly because of the rapid growth expected, more than half of the developing countries consider their population growth to be too high, including two thirds of those in Africa, 56 per cent of those in Oceania and 45 per cent of those in Asia. While in 1986 half of the least developed countries considered their population growth to be too high, by 2005, 80 per cent did so. Thus, developing countries recognize that further reductions in population growth are necessary to ease mounting pressures on the job market, resources and the environment and to facilitate the achievement of all development goals.

8. In contrast, developed countries are concerned about population decline. The populations of 45 such countries are projected to decrease between 2009 and 2050, including in the Russian Federation (by 33 million), Japan (by 25 million), Ukraine (by 15 million), Germany (by 8.4 million) and Poland (by 7.7 million). Population decline and the associated acceleration of population ageing are therefore important concerns for a growing number of countries.

9. In 2009, only 11 countries have more than 100 million inhabitants: China, India, the United States of America, Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Japan and Mexico (listed in order of population size); they account for 61 per cent of the world population. A total of 69 countries with populations ranging from 10 million to 100 million inhabitants account for more than 33 per cent of the world population. The population share of the 73 countries or areas with populations ranging from 1 million to 10 million inhabitants is 5.4 per cent, while the remaining 76 countries or areas, each having fewer than 1 million inhabitants, account for just 0.3 per cent of the world population.

III. Levels and trends in fertility and contraception

10. Global fertility has declined markedly since 1965, from 5.0 children per woman in the period 1965-1970 to 2.6 children per woman in 2005-2010 (see table 2). Since fertility in the more developed regions was a low 2.4 children per woman in 1965-1970, the decline resulted mainly from reductions in developing countries, where fertility dropped from 6.0 to 2.8 children per woman over the period considered.

Table 2
Total fertility for the world and major areas, 1965-1970, 2005-2010 and 2045-2050

Major area	*Total fertility (children per women)*		
	1965-1970	*2005-2010*	*2045-2050*
World	4.9	2.6	2.0
More developed regions	2.4	1.6	1.8
Less developed regions	6.0	2.8	2.1
Least developed countries	6.7	4.6	2.5
Other less developed countries	5.9	2.5	1.9
Africa	6.8	4.7	2.5
Asia	5.7	2.3	1.9
Europe	2.4	1.5	1.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	5.5	2.4	1.9
Northern America	2.6	2.0	1.8
Oceania	3.6	2.3	1.9

Source: World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision.

11. The onset of the decline in fertility varied by regions (see table 3). It began in the 1960s in Southern Africa, Eastern and Western Asia, the Caribbean and South America, and Micronesia and Polynesia. In Northern Africa, the rest of Asia, Central America and Melanesia, the decline started in the 1970s. In Eastern and Western Africa, fertility showed signs of decline only in the 1980s, and in Middle Africa, there are as yet few signs of decline.

Table 3
Period of maximum total fertility, onset of fertility decline and speed of fertility decline, selected areas

Major area or region	*Period of maximum fertility*	*Maximum fertility (children per woman)*	*Onset of fertility decline*[a]	*Percentage fertility decline within 15 years of onset*	*Fertility in 2005-2010 as percentage of maximum*
World	1950-1955	5.02	1965	27	51
Less developed regions	1950-1955	6.15	1965	31	45
Least developed countries	1960-1965	6.76	1980	16	68
Sub-Saharan Africa	1960-1965	6.8	1985	15	76
Africa	1960-1965	6.87	1980	18	68
Eastern Africa	1965-1970	7.03	1985	15	75
Middle Africa	1980-1985	6.63	—[b]	—	91
Northern Africa	1960-1965	7.06	1970	22	41
Southern Africa	1955-1960	6.46	1960	18	42
Western Africa	1970-1975	7.03	1990	19	75

Major area or region	*Period of maximum fertility*	*Maximum fertility (children per woman)*	*Onset of fertility decline*[a]	*Percentage fertility decline within 15 years of onset*	*Fertility in 2005-2010 as percentage of maximum*
Asia	1950-1955	5.87	1965	35	40
Eastern Asia	1950-1955	5.67	1965	54	30
South-central Asia	1955-1960	6.06	1970	18	48
South-eastern Asia	1960-1965	6.19	1970	35	38
Western Asia	1950-1955	6.49	1965	16	46
Latin America and the Caribbean	1960-1965	5.97	1965	29	40
Caribbean	1960-1965	5.49	1965	33	44
Central America	1955-1960	6.82	1970	39	36
South America	1960-1965	5.77	1965	28	40
Oceania	1955-1960	4.09	1960	31	56
Australia/New Zealand	1955-1960	3.53	1960	41	52
Melanesia	1955-1960	6.33	1970	18	57
Micronesia	1960-1965	6.51	1965	27	41
Polynesia	1960-1965	6.97	1965	29	44

Source: *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision.*

[a] Onset of fertility decline is the period after which total fertility falls permanently below 90 per cent of its maximum level.

[b] No decline yet identified.

12. The speed of the decline has also varied. Eastern and South-eastern Asia, the Caribbean and Central America registered a rapid reduction in fertility, with a drop of at least 30 per cent occurring within 15 years of the onset of the decline. In Eastern, Southern and Western Africa, South-central and Western Asia and Melanesia, fertility has declined very slowly, dropping by less than 20 per cent within 15 years of the onset of the decline. The 42 countries having fertility levels above 4.0 children per woman in 2005-2010 are mostly located in those regions or in Middle Africa, where there has as yet been no decline in fertility. The remaining world regions have experienced fertility reductions that are neither too fast nor too slow.

13. High fertility levels, unless accompanied by high mortality, result in rapid population growth, which is particularly onerous for low-income countries. Hence, more than half of the developing countries have policies to lower fertility; of the least developed countries, 76 per cent have such policies.

14. Policies to increase the availability of contraceptives and accessibility to family planning programmes and reproductive health care have been instrumental in facilitating reductions in fertility. More than 90 per cent of Governments provide direct or indirect support for family planning programmes. Globally, contraceptive prevalence among women between the ages of 15 and 49 who are married or in union increased from 56 per cent in 1993 to 63 per cent in 2003 (see table 4). In 44 per cent of the developing countries with relevant data, contraceptive prevalence increased annually by at least one percentage point per year during the most recent period covered by their respective estimates, while in 8 per cent the increase

averaged at least two percentage points per year. However, contraceptive prevalence remains low in countries with high fertility, most of which are located in sub-Saharan Africa, where contraceptive prevalence averages a low 22 per cent.

Table 4
Contraceptive use worldwide and by development group and major area, most recent date available

(Percentage)

			Any modern method				
Major area	*Year*	*Any method*	*Total*	*Female sterilization*	*Intra-uterine device*	*Oral contraceptive pill*	*Any traditional method*
World	2003	63.1	56.1	19.7	15.5	8.5	7.0
More developed regions	1999	67.4	56.1	8.6	9.4	16.5	11.3
Less developed regions	2004	62.4	56.1	21.5	16.5	7.2	6.3
Africa	2003	28.0	21.4	1.6	4.2	7.4	6.5
Asia	2004	67.9	61.7	24.0	19.6	6.1	6.3
Europe	1997	67.5	52.5	4.7	14.1	18.6	14.9
Latin America and the Caribbean	2001	71.4	64.5	28.5	7.4	15.8	6.9
Northern America	2001	73.0	68.6	22.2	1.9	17.9	4.3
Oceania	1995	52.9	48.9	11.3	1.5	17.7	4.1

Source: World Contraceptive Use 2007.

15. A total of 90 per cent of all contraceptive users rely on modern methods (see table 4). The three most commonly used modern methods are female sterilization (20 per cent), the intra-uterine device (16 per cent) and the oral contraceptive pill (9 per cent). They account for 69 per cent of overall contraceptive prevalence. In contrast, traditional methods are used by 7 per cent of women who are married or in union, the most commonly used being the rhythm method (periodic abstinence) and withdrawal.

16. Very low fertility levels that are not sufficient to ensure the replacement of generations are a matter of concern in many countries. In 2005-2010, 86 countries or areas, including 53 developed countries, had below-replacement fertility. In all, 60 per cent of developed countries consider their fertility levels to be too low, up from 40 per cent in 1995. Among the 47 countries that consider their fertility to be too low, 27 are in Europe and 12 are in Asia.

IV. Mortality trends and the impact of HIV/AIDS

17. Better hygiene, improved nutrition and scientifically based medical practices resulted in major reductions in mortality during the twentieth century. By 1950-1955, the more developed regions, which benefited first from such advances, had a life expectancy at birth of 66 years, which has since increased to 77 years (see table 5).

18. The 1950s marked an important turning point: with the increasing use of antibiotics, vaccines and insecticides, mortality in developing countries declined rapidly and life expectancy increased from 41 years in the period 1950-1955 to 65 years in 2005-2010. Hence, the difference in life expectancy between developed and developing countries narrowed, from 25 years in 1950-1955 to 12 years in 2005-2010. However, lagging mortality decline in the least developed countries, where life expectancy rose from 36 years in 1950-1955 to just 55 years in 2005-2010, has increased the gap between them and other developing countries from 5 to 13 years. Such divergence is the result partly of the exceptionally rapid increase in life expectancy achieved by Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean (see table 5) and partly of high HIV prevalence, failure to control endemic tropical diseases, including malaria, and the effects of protracted conflict in many least developed countries, particularly those in Africa.

Table 5
Life expectancy at birth for both sexes combined, by major area, selected periods

	Life expectancy at birth (years)				*Average annual increase (years)*		
Major area	*1950-1955*	*1990-1995*	*2005-2010*	*2045-2050*	*1950-1955 to 1990-1995*	*1990-1995 to 2005-2010*	*2005-2010 to 2045-2050*
World	46.4	64.2	67.2	75.4	0.4	0.2	0.2
More developed regions	66.1	74.0	76.5	82.4	0.2	0.2	0.1
Less developed regions	40.8	62.0	65.4	74.3	0.5	0.2	0.2
Least developed countries	36.2	50.4	54.6	67.2	0.4	0.3	0.3
Other less developed countries	41.5	64.2	67.9	76.4	0.6	0.2	0.2
Africa	38.5	51.9	52.8	66.1	0.3	0.1	0.3
Asia	41.0	64.5	69.0	77.4	0.6	0.3	0.2
Europe	65.6	72.6	74.6	81.0	0.2	0.1	0.2
Latin America and the Caribbean	51.4	68.6	73.3	79.6	0.4	0.3	0.2
Northern America	68.8	75.5	78.5	83.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
Oceania	60.4	72.3	75.2	81.0	0.3	0.2	0.1

Source: World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision.

19. The emergence of HIV and the resulting worldwide pandemic have increased mortality in the countries most affected by the disease. In 2007, an estimated 33 million people were living with HIV, 90 per cent of whom lived in developing countries and two thirds of whom lived in sub-Saharan Africa.[6] Although other parts of the world have avoided the devastating spread of the disease as it has affected Africa, rapid and effective responses are required to avert similar developments. The impact of HIV/AIDS is the major population concern of Governments worldwide: 93 per cent of developing countries and 81 per cent of developed countries consider it a major challenge.

[6] Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, *Report on the global HIV/AIDS epidemic* (UNAIDS/08.25E/JC1510E) (Geneva, 2008).

20. Despite the impact of HIV/AIDS, life expectancy is projected to increase in most regions and to reach unprecedented levels by 2045-2050: 75 years globally, and higher in all major areas except Africa. While the life expectancy figures for most major areas are expected to converge, those for the least developed countries will lag behind. Moreover, given the setbacks experienced recently in many countries, it is not certain that projected improvements in survivorship will be achieved. The resurgence of communicable diseases or the problems associated with coping with a rising chronic disease burden among the ageing populations of developing countries may prevent the realization of projected gains in longevity.

21. Disparities in survivorship by sex continue to exist, the result of a complex interplay of biological, medical and behavioural factors that determine mortality at different ages.[7] In populations with low mortality, females generally experience lower mortality rates than males at all ages. However, in some developing countries and in developed countries in the past, females have experienced higher mortality than males at some ages, particularly in childhood or early adulthood.[8] Generally, female infants experience lower mortality than male infants during the neonatal period because males are more susceptible to deadly perinatal conditions, congenital anomalies and infectious disease in the early months of life.[9] In adulthood, a combination of behavioural factors, such as smoking, use of alcohol or engagement in risky behaviours, and biological factors, such as the protective effect of female sex hormones, result in lower mortality among females than among males. Women also have a lower risk of developing cardiovascular disease during their reproductive years and, although this female advantage decreases with advancing age, women still experience lower mortality risks than men at advanced ages.[10]

22. In most countries today, females have a higher life expectancy than males. Globally, newborn girls can expect to live 69.5 years at 2005-2010 mortality rates, compared with 65 years for boys. Between the periods 1950-1955 and 2005-2010, the difference between female and male life expectancy increased from 2.7 years to 4.5 years. This increasing female advantage in survivorship results from a faster improvement in female life expectancy compared with that of males in Asia,

---

[7] "Sex differentials in survivorship in the developing world: levels, regional patterns and demographic determinants", *Population Bulletin of the United Nations*, No. 25 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.XIII.6), pp. 51-64; Ingrid Waldron, "Mortality differentials, by sex", *The Encyclopedia of Population*, P. Demeny and G. McNicoll (eds.) (New York, Macmillan, 2003).

[8] D. Tabutin and M. Willems (1995), "Excess female child mortality in the developing world during the 1970s and 1980s", *Population Bulletin of the United Nations*, No. 39 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.17), pp. 45-78; D. Tabutin (1998), "Differential mortality by sex from birth to adolescence: the historical experience of the West (1750-1930)", *Too Young to Die: Genes or Gender?* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XIII.13); United Nations, "Patterns of sex differentials in mortality in less developed countries", *Sex differentials in mortality: trends, determinants and consequences*, A. Lopez and L. Ruzicka (eds.) (Canberra, Australian National University, 1983).

[9] Ingrid Waldron (1998), "Sex differences in infant and early childhood mortality: major causes of death and possible biological causes", *Too Young to Die: Genes or Gender?* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.XIII.13).

[10] Thomas Buettner (1995), "Sex differentials in old-age mortality", *Population Bulletin of the United Nations*, No. 39 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.17), pp. 18-44; V. Kannisto, J. Lauritsen, A. R. Thatcher and J. W. Vaupel (1994), "Reductions in mortality at advanced ages: several decades of evidence from 27 countries", *Population and Development Review*, vol. 20, No. 4, pp. 793-810.

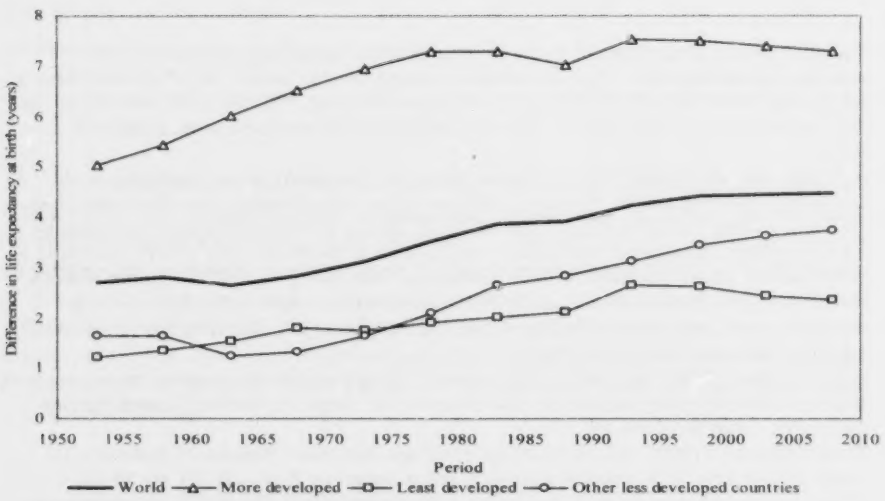
Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania. In Africa and Northern America, the female advantage in survivorship declined (see table 6 and fig. I).

Table 6
Life expectancy at birth by sex and possibility of survival, by major area, selected periods

	Life expectancy at birth (years)						*Probability of survival (percentage)*	
	1950-1955			*2005-2010*			*2005-2010*	
Major area	*Female*	*Male*	*Difference*	*Female*	*Male*	*Difference*	*From 15 to 60*	*From 60 to 80*
World	47.8	45.0	2.7	69.5	65.0	4.5	82.2	49.7
More developed regions	68.6	63.5	5.0	80.2	72.9	7.3	88.0	56.8
Less developed regions	41.6	40.0	1.6	67.2	63.7	3.5	80.8	45.4
Least developed countries	36.8	35.6	1.2	55.8	53.4	2.4	68.3	33.2
Other less developed countries	42.3	40.7	1.6	69.8	66.1	3.7	82.6	46.4
Africa	39.7	37.3	2.4	53.8	51.7	2.1	63.9	33.2
Asia	41.7	40.7	1.3	71.0	67.2	3.8	84.2	47.6
Europe	67.9	62.9	5.0	78.8	70.5	8.3	85.8	52.2
Latin America and the Caribbean	53.1	49.7	3.4	76.6	70.1	6.5	85.1	54.6
Northern America	71.9	66.1	5.8	81.0	75.9	5.1	90.5	60.6
Oceania	62.9	58.1	4.9	77.9	72.6	5.3	88.6	61.5

Source: World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision.

Figure I
Difference between female and male life expectancy by development group, 1950-2010



Source: World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision.

23. In the more developed regions, the female advantage in life expectancy increased from 5 years in the period 1950-1955 to 7.3 years in 2005-2010. That outcome is the result mainly of a marked increase in female life expectancy in Europe with respect to that of males (from 5 to 8.3 years), which, in turn, is largely determined by the increasing survivorship advantage of females in Eastern Europe, where male mortality has stagnated or even increased since 1980. In sharp contrast with Europe, the female advantage in life expectancy declined in Northern America from 5.8 to 5.1 years between the periods 1950-1955 and 2005-2010.

24. Among the less developed regions, Latin America and the Caribbean displays relatively high levels of life expectancy, with large differentials by gender, amounting to 6.5 years in favour of females in 2005-2010. In Africa and Asia, the sex differentials in life expectancy are substantially lower, at 2.1 years in Africa and 3.8 years in Asia. In Africa, the female advantage declined by more than a year between the periods 1990-1995 and 2005-2010, largely because of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which has affected women more than men, at increasingly younger ages. In Asia, the female advantage in life expectancy increased, rising from a very low level in the 1950s. Prior to 2000-2005, the female advantage in life expectancy was higher in Africa than in Asia.

25. Because differences in life expectancy are still high between developed and developing countries, the views of Governments about the adequacy of mortality levels vary considerably between the development groups. In 2007, 63 per cent of the developed countries considered the life expectancy of their population to be acceptable, whereas just 36 per cent of developing countries did so and none of the least developed countries did.

26. In many countries, some segments of the population, particularly infants and children under the age of 5, continue to experience unacceptably high levels of mortality, requiring special policy attention. In 2007, 35 per cent of developed countries considered their levels of under-5 mortality to be unacceptable, whereas 86 per cent of developing countries did so, including all the least developed countries.

27. Reductions in child mortality have been major contributors to the rise of life expectancy at the global level. Worldwide, under-5 mortality is estimated to have fallen by 19 per cent between the periods 1990-1995 and 2005-2010, from 91 to 74 deaths per 1,000 live births. In 2005-2010, the probability of dying between birth and the age of 5 in the less developed regions was estimated at 81 deaths per 1,000 births — a level nine times higher than that in the more developed regions, where under-5 mortality was estimated at 9 deaths per 1,000 (see table 7). Under-5 mortality is particularly high in the least developed countries, at 141 deaths per 1,000 births — a level more than twice as high as that in the rest of the developing world (62 deaths per 1,000). Among the less developed regions, Latin America and the Caribbean recorded the sharpest decline in under-5 mortality between the periods 1990-1995 and 2005-2010, with a 45 per cent reduction. Under-5 mortality in Asia declined by 28 per cent over the same period, whereas in Africa it dropped by just 16 per cent.

Table 7
Under-5 mortality for both sexes combined, by major area, 1950-1995 and 2005-2010

Major area	*Under-5 mortality (per 1,000 live births)*		*Difference*	*Difference as percentage of 1990-1995*
	1990-1995	*2005-2010*		
World	91	74	17	19
More developed regions	12	9	4	29
Less developed regions	100	81	19	19
Least developed countries	179	141	39	22
Other less developed countries	81	62	19	24
Africa	170	143	27	16
Asia	83	59	23	28
Europe	15	10	5	31
Latin America and the Caribbean	49	27	22	45
Northern America	9	8	2	19
Oceania	41	35	6	14

Source: World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision.

28. The probability of surviving in adulthood from exact age 15 to exact age 60 is a useful indicator of the burden of disease in a population, because most deaths at those ages are preventable. At current mortality levels, 82 per cent of all 15-year-olds would survive to age 60 (see table 6). Survivorship between 15 and 60 is higher in the more developed regions (88 per cent), whereas in the least developed countries it is only 68 per cent and in the rest of the developing world it is 83 per cent.

29. Estimated levels of adult survivorship are particularly high in Oceania (89 per cent), mainly because 15-year-olds in Australia and New Zealand have a 94 per cent probability of reaching the age of 60, and in Northern America (91 per cent). Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean have very similar levels of adult survivorship, ranging from 84 per cent to 86 per cent. The relatively low level of adult survivorship in Europe is largely the result of high adult mortality in Eastern Europe, where just 77 per cent of 15-year-olds are expected to reach their sixtieth birthday at current mortality levels. Adult survivorship is lowest in Africa, at 64 per cent, mainly because of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

30. The probability of surviving from exact age 60 to exact age 80 at current mortality levels is 50 per cent globally (see table 6), but there are major differences in old-age survivorship between developed and developing countries. In developed countries, 57 per cent of 60-year-olds would survive to the age of 80 at current mortality levels, whereas in developing countries, just 45 per cent would do so. Survivorship at advanced ages is lowest among the least developed countries (33 per cent). Among the major areas, the chances of survival in old age are highest in Oceania and Northern America (over 60 per cent in each), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (55 per cent) and Europe (52 per cent). Again, low old-age survival probabilities in Europe are the result of high old-age mortality in

Eastern Europe. In Asia, the probability of survival in old age, 48 per cent, is distinctly lower than in other major areas, and, at 33 per cent, Africa has the lowest probability.

31. Maternal mortality remains high in many developing countries and only 17 per cent of countries consider their maternal mortality levels to be acceptable. In 2005, an estimated 450 women died in developing countries for every 100,000 births, whereas the equivalent figure in developed countries was a low 11 deaths per 100,000 births and, in the least developed countries, a staggering 870.[11] Virtually all of the least developed countries consider their high maternal mortality to be unacceptable and may not be able to achieve the reductions called for in the Millennium Development Goals.

V. International migration

32. The number of international migrants,[12] which stood at 192 million in 2005, is expected to reach 210 million in 2010, still representing 3 per cent of the world population. It is projected that about 128 million international migrants, or 61 per cent, will reside in developed countries, whereas 82 million, or 39 per cent, will live in developing countries (see table 8). International migrants will account for about 10 per cent of the population of developed countries, but for just 1.4 per cent of that of developing countries in 2010. Europe is expected to host the highest share of international migrants (33 per cent), followed by Asia (28 per cent), Northern America (24 per cent), Africa (9 per cent), Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania (3 per cent each). High-income countries are expected to host 62 per cent of all international migrants.

Table 8
Estimated number of international migrants and their percentage distribution by major area, 1990-2010

	Number of international migrants (millions)		*Increment (millions)*	*Percentage distribution*		*Percentage of female migrants*	
Major area	*1990*	*2010*	*1990-2010*	*1990*	*2010*	*1990*	*2010*
World	155	210	55	100	100	49	49
More developed regions	82	128	46	53	61	52	52
Less developed regions	73	82	9	47	39	45	45
Least developed countries	11	12	1	7	6	47	48
Africa	16	19	3	10	9	46	48
Asia	50	58	8	32	28	45	44
Latin America and the Caribbean	7	7	0	5	3	50	50
Northern America	28	50	22	18	24	51	50
Europe	49	70	20	32	33	53	53
Oceania	4	6	2	3	3	49	51

Source: Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision.

[11] *Maternal mortality in 2005*; estimates developed by WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank (Geneva: World Health Organization, 2007).

[12] International migrants are persons born in a country other than that in which they reside.

33. Between 1990 and 2010, the number of international migrants is expected to increase by 55 million, from 155 million to 210 million. Some 83 per cent of those 55 million, or 46 million migrants, are expected to be added to the migrant population of developed countries, while developing countries as a whole will gain just 9 million migrants. High-income countries are expected to gain 46 million international migrants during that period, whereas the middle- and low-income countries are expected to see a very modest increase or even a decrease in their migrant stock.

34. In 1990, 30 countries hosted 75 per cent of all international migrants, and by 2010, 27 are expected to do so. The United States will account for 20 per cent of all international migrants in 2010, followed by the Russian Federation (6 per cent), Germany (5 per cent), Canada (3 per cent) and Saudi Arabia (3 per cent). Between 1990 and 2010, nine receiving countries will absorb 83 per cent of the increase in the migrant stock, with the United States gaining about 20 million migrants, Spain gaining about 6 million and Germany gaining nearly 5 million.

35. By 2010, migrants will constitute at least one fifth of the population of 47 countries, including Australia, Canada and Saudi Arabia, and of 34 other countries with fewer than a million inhabitants each (see fig. II). A high proportion of international migrants characterize the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council; Hong Kong and Macao, Special Administrative Regions of China; Israel; Jordan; Singapore; and several small countries in Europe.

Figure II
Map showing the number of international migrants as a percentage of the population, 2010

Source: Trends in Total Migrant Stock: The 2008 Revision.

36. The proportion of female international migrants, which reached 49 per cent in 1990, is expected to remain at that level until 2010. In developed countries, female migrants have outnumbered male migrants since 1985 and their proportion is expected to remain at 52 per cent in 2010. In contrast, female migrants remain underrepresented in Asia, largely because the major receiving countries in Western

and South-eastern Asia are the destination of significant numbers of contract workers, most of whom are men.

37. In the more developed regions, net migration became the driving force of population growth in 1995-2000. However, a projected net annual intake averaging 2.3 million migrants will not prevent the population of those regions from decreasing, although the decline will likely start only after 2030. The slow growth of the working age population coupled with sustained economic growth in many developed countries has led to sector-specific labour shortages that have been increasingly filled by migrant workers. Government views on the adequacy of immigration levels indicate that, since 1995 or thereabouts, developed countries have become more open to the possibility of using migration to address labour shortages. In 2005, fewer than 10 per cent of developed countries had policies to lower immigration and nearly half wanted to increase the immigration of highly skilled workers.

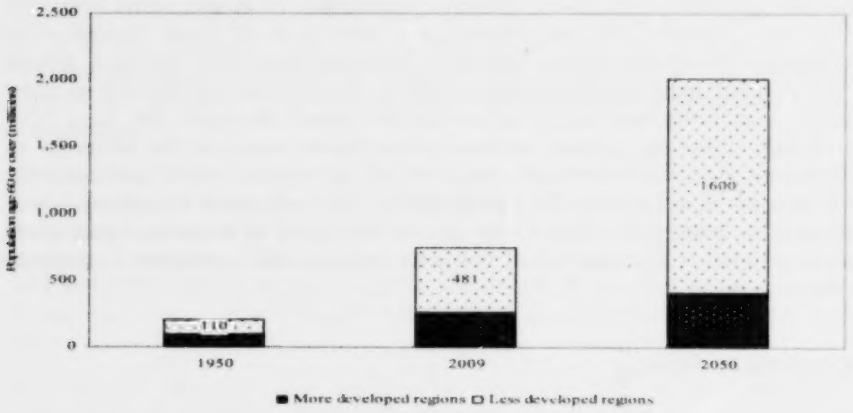
VI. Population ageing

38. Smaller families and longer life spans are shifting the age distribution of the world population from younger to older. In 1950, only 8 per cent of the world population was aged 60 years or over. By 2009, that proportion had risen to 11 per cent, and it is expected to reach 22 per cent in 2050. Globally, the number of persons aged 60 or over is expected almost to triple, from 743 million in 2009 to 2 billion in 2050. By that date, the number of older persons will exceed the number of children under the age of 15.

39. Population ageing is more advanced in the more developed regions, where the proportion of older persons is estimated at 21 per cent for 2009 and the number of older persons already exceeds by a wide margin the number of children under the age of 15. By 2050, the proportion of older persons in the more developed regions is likely to reach 33 per cent, more than double the expected proportion of children (15 per cent).

40. Although the process of population ageing is less advanced in the less developed regions, it is occurring at a faster pace than in Europe, given the rapid reduction of the overall fertility level in those regions. The proportion of older persons in the less developed regions is expected to increase from 9 per cent in 2009 to 20 per cent in 2050. Despite the fact that the proportion of older persons in those regions is lower, developing countries are already home to more older persons than developed countries, and it is projected that in 2050, 80 per cent of all older persons will live in developing countries. Between 2009 and 2050, the older population of those countries is projected to increase from 481 million to 1.6 billion (fig. II), while that of developed countries is expected to rise from 262 million to 406 million.

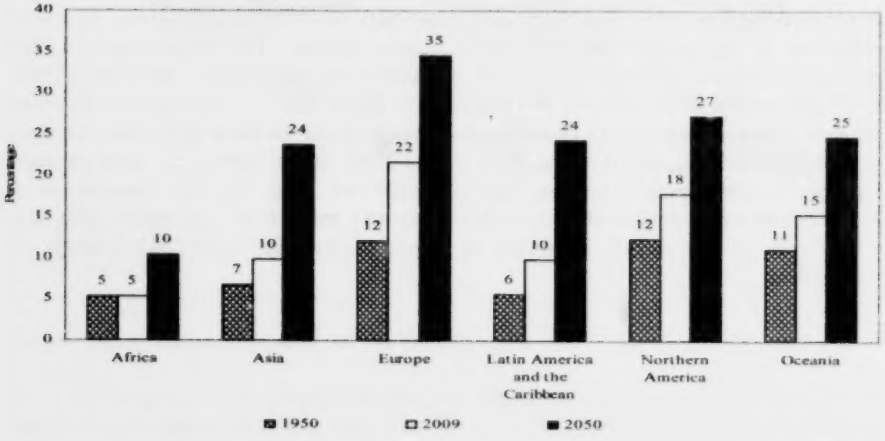
Figure III
Size and distribution of the population aged 60 or over, by development group, 1950, 2009 and 2050



Source: World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision

41. Europe will continue to have the highest proportion of older persons: 22 per cent in 2009 and 35 per cent in 2050. In contrast, only 10 per cent of the population of Africa is expected to be aged 60 or over by 2050, up from 5 per cent in 2009. The fastest growth in the proportion of older persons is projected to take place in both Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, where older persons will constitute 24 per cent of the total population in 2050, up from 10 per cent in 2009 (fig. IV).

Figure IV
Percentage of the population aged 60 or over, by major area, 1950, 2009 and 2050



Source: World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision

42. In most countries, longevity is increasing. Global life expectancy at age 60 rose from 15 years in 1950-1955 to 20 years in 2005-2010, and it is expected to reach 23 years in 2045-2050. As a result, the older population is itself ageing, and persons aged 80 or over, who constitute 1.5 per cent of the world population today, are expected to account for 4.4 per cent in 2050.

43. Population ageing poses challenges to the financial sustainability of pension systems based on the redistribution of earnings from younger to older generations and of health-care systems.[13] In developing countries, an estimated 342 million older persons currently lack adequate incomes, and their number may rise to 1.2 billion in 2050 if the coverage of pension schemes does not expand. Since women constitute the majority of the older population and have lower labour force participation than men, they are particularly likely to be poor in old age. Consequently, policies aimed at providing a safety net for older persons need to focus on older women in particular.[14]

44. Population ageing brings important benefits, especially during the four or five decades when the proportion of children declines and that of older persons increases slowly. If the population of working age can be productively employed during that period, more resources can be available for investment and to spur economic growth. In Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, the total dependency ratio declined between 1975 and 2005 and will likely start increasing in 2010 in Asia and in 2025 in Latin America and the Caribbean. In Africa, where fertility remains high, the dependency ratio has not yet begun to decline. In the more developed regions, where population ageing is advanced, the dependency ratio is expected almost to triple between 2009 and 2050.

45. Given that women with fewer children are more likely to work, with investment in health and education increasing and people saving more for a longer retirement, population ageing can produce additional and permanent increases in per capita income and economic growth. However, those outcomes depend on developing appropriate institutions and adopting policies that foster the accumulation of human and physical capital.

VII. Urbanization

46. In 2008, for the first time in history, the number of urban dwellers surpassed the number of rural inhabitants. World urbanization is expected to continue at a fast pace in many developing countries, yielding by 2050 a world population that will likely be 70 per cent urban. Between 2007 and 2050, the number of urban dwellers is projected to increase by 3.1 billion, from 3.3 billion to 6.4 billion, while the world population will gain 2.5 billion persons. The difference represents a net population transfer from rural to urban areas as a result of migration and the transformation of rural localities into urban centres, usually described as "reclassification".

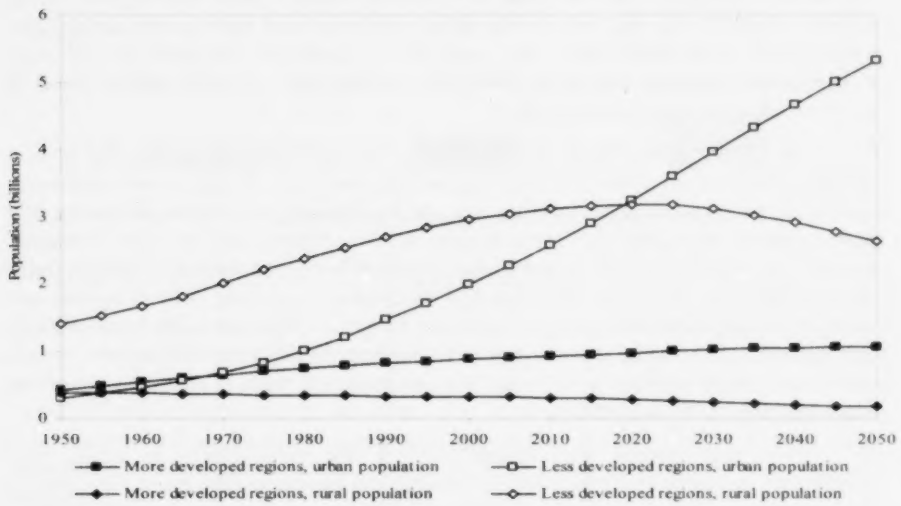
47. Future population growth will be largely concentrated in the cities and towns of developing countries. The urban population of developing countries is projected

[13] *World Economic and Social Survey 2007: Development in an Ageing World* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.II.C.1).

[14] See International Labour Organization (2002), *Facts on Social Security*; available at http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/secsoc/downloads/events/factsheet.pdf.

to increase by 2.9 billion, from 2.4 billion in 2007 to 5.3 billion in 2050 (fig. V), whereas the urban population of developed countries will likely rise from 0.9 billion in 2007 to just 1.1 billion in 2050. Between 2007 and 2050, the urban proportion of the population of developing countries is projected to increase from 44 per cent to 67 per cent, while that of developed countries will likely rise from 74 per cent to 86 per cent.

Figure V
Urban and rural populations by development group, 1950-2050



Source: World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision, Highlights.

48. In 2007, the two least urbanized major areas were Africa (39 per cent urban) and Asia (41 per cent). Latin America and the Caribbean, where 78 per cent of the population was urban in 2007, was more urbanized than Europe (72 per cent). Over the coming decades, Africa and Asia are expected to urbanize rapidly and account for 80 per cent of the urban population increase in developing countries. Nevertheless, by 2050, they will still have considerably lower levels of urbanization than other major areas.

49. The world urban population is highly concentrated in a few countries. In 2007, 25 countries accounted for three quarters of all urban dwellers, with urban populations ranging from 29 million in South Africa to 561 million in China. Most of those 25 countries are highly urbanized, but 7 have urbanization levels ranging from 27 per cent to just over 50 per cent, including the populous countries of Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan.

50. In many developing countries, natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) accounts for at least 60 per cent of urban population growth, with internal migration and reclassification accounting for the rest. Notable exceptions include China and India, where rural-to-urban migration and reclassification have accounted for up to 80 per cent of urban population growth since 1980. Hence, for

many of the developing countries concerned about rapid urban growth, policies that facilitate the reduction of fertility are a means of moderating urban growth.

51. In contrast to the urban population, the world rural population is expected to decline after reaching a maximum of 3.5 billion in 2018 (fig. V). This global trend is mainly the result of rural population growth in developing countries, where the rural population is projected to reach 2.6 billion in 2050. In developed countries, the rural population has been declining since 1950 and is expected to drop from 0.3 billion in 2007 to 0.2 billion in 2050.

52. For many years, Governments have expressed concern about the spatial distribution of their populations and have focused on reducing rural-to-urban migration, controlling urban sprawl or moderating the growth of primate cities by encouraging the economic development of small and medium-sized cities and by creating regional development zones. Although those measures have not always resulted in slower urbanization, they have shown that the proactive management of urbanization and its consequences is preferable to restrictive policies that go against the economic and social forces shaping population distribution.

VIII. Conclusions

53. **In mid-2009 the world will have 6.8 billion inhabitants. If fertility continues to decline in developing countries, the world population is expected to reach 7 billion in 2012 and 9 billion in 2045. Most of that growth will occur in developing countries. While the population of the least developed countries will more than double, that of some developed countries is already declining, and the overall population of developed countries is expected to start decreasing around 2030.**

54. **Total fertility in the less developed regions dropped from 6.0 to 2.8 children per woman between the periods 1965-1970 and 2005-2010. Yet in 2005-2010, 42 developing countries, many of them least developed, still had total fertility levels above 4.0 children per woman, which resulted in rapid population growth. Concerned about their high population growth, three quarters of the least developed countries adopted policies to reduce fertility.**

55. **Global contraceptive prevalence has continued to increase, rising from 56 per cent in 1993 to 63 per cent in 2003. In 44 per cent of the developing countries with the required data, contraceptive prevalence has risen by more than one percentage point per year since 1997, while 8 per cent of such countries recorded increases averaging at least two percentage points annually. However, contraceptive prevalence remained very low in most of the least developed countries and in Africa (28 per cent).**

56. **In 86 countries or areas, including 53 developed countries, fertility levels are below that needed to ensure the replacement of generations. If sustained, such low fertility will result in declining populations. Because of prevailing low fertility, international migration accounted for 75 per cent of population growth in the more developed regions in 2000-2005 and, if current trends continue, net migration will account for virtually all the population growth in those regions from 2010 to 2030. Thereafter, even with a projected net**

migration gain averaging 2.3 million migrants annually, their population is expected to decline.

57. Life expectancy in 2005-2010 is estimated at 67.2 years globally, resulting from a life expectancy of 76.5 years in the more developed regions and 65.4 years in the less developed regions. The least developed countries, two thirds of which are severely affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, have a low life expectancy of 54.6 years. Despite the expected reductions in future mortality levels, the survivorship gap between the least developed countries and the rest of the developing world will remain significant. Moreover, given the setbacks that many developing countries have experienced recently, the projected improvements in survivorship may not be achieved.

58. Fertility decline coupled with increasing longevity produces population ageing. In 2050, the population aged 60 or over is expected to account for 22 per cent of the world population, up from 11 per cent today. Globally, the number of persons aged 60 or over will almost triple, from 743 million in 2009 to 2 billion in 2050, when their number will exceed that of children under 15 for the first time in history.

59. Population ageing is more advanced in developed countries, where 21 per cent of the population is already aged 60 or over. Compared with the developed countries, the developing world is still relatively young. Thus, children constitute 30 per cent of the population of developing countries and older persons constitute just 9 per cent. However, because of the fast decline in fertility in developing countries as a whole, their population is expected to age rapidly and by 2050 will resemble that of developed countries today.

60. The ratio of the population aged 60 or over to that of working age is an indicator of the potential economic burden that older generations impose on younger ones. In developed countries that ratio will almost double, increasing from 34 persons aged 60 or over per 100 persons of working age in 2009 to 62 in 2050. In developing countries, the ratio will nearly triple, increasing from 14 to 34.

61. In 2008, the number of urban dwellers surpassed that of rural inhabitants for the first time in history. The world urban population, which reached 3.4 billion in 2005, is expected to increase to 6.4 billion by 2050, and most of the expected population growth will be concentrated in the urban areas of developing countries. By 2050, 70 per cent of the world population will likely be urban. Between 2007 and 2050, the urban proportion of the population of developing countries is projected to increase from 44 per cent to 67 per cent, while that of developed countries will likely rise from 74 per cent to 86 per cent.

United Nations E/CN.9/2009/7

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
9 January 2009

Original: English

Commission on Population and Development
Forty-second session
30 March-3 April 2009
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

Programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2008: Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report reviews the progress made by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in implementing its programme of work in the field of population in 2008. It covers the activities of the Population Division dealing with the analysis of fertility, mortality and international migration; the preparation of world population estimates and projections; the monitoring of population policies; the analysis of the interrelations between population and development; and the monitoring and dissemination of population information. The report also covers the major activities carried out by the Division, including the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including through the Internet.

The objective of the subprogramme on population is to enable the international community to better understand and address effectively current and foreseeable population issues and the population dimensions of development at the national and international levels. The Commission on Population and Development provides the subprogramme with intergovernmental guidance.

The Commission may wish to take note of this report.

* E/CN.9/2009/1.

09-20461 (E) 050209

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Fertility and family planning	4
III.	Mortality and health	5
IV.	International migration	6
V.	World population projections	9
VI.	Population policies	11
VII.	Population and development	12
VIII.	Monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information	14
	A. Monitoring of population trends and policies	14
	B. Dissemination of population information and data	14
IX.	Technical cooperation	15
Annex	Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or organized by the Population Division (1 January-31 December 2008)	16

I. Introduction

1. The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the subprogramme on population of the United Nations Secretariat. The subprogramme takes account of the recommendations of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly[1] on key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[2] and the outcomes of other relevant international conferences and summits, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration[3] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome.[4] It also responds to the resolutions and decisions of the Commission on Population and Development, in particular resolution 2004/1 on the work programme in the field of population, as well as relevant resolutions of the Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

2. As described in the strategic framework for the period 2008-2009, the objective of the subprogramme on population is to enable the international community to better understand and effectively address current and foreseeable population issues and population dimensions of development at the national and international levels.[5] The Commission on Population and Development provides intergovernmental guidance to the subprogramme.

3. The expected accomplishments for the subprogramme, according to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/6 (Sect. 9)), are:

(a) Effectively facilitated review by Member States of progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome of the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly;

(b) Enhanced awareness of new and emerging population issues and increased knowledge and understanding, at the national level, particularly in the areas of fertility, mortality, migration, HIV/AIDS, urbanization, population growth and population ageing;

(c) Improved accessibility and timeliness of population information and data for use by Member States, civil society and academia.

4. The Population Division collaborates closely with the agencies, funds, programmes and bodies of the United Nations system in the implementation of the work programme and in the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. United Nations missions, national Government offices, United Nations offices, researchers, media representatives and the public regularly consult the Population Division regarding data, information and analyses on population and development issues.

---

[1] General Assembly resolution S-21/2, annex.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/61/6/Rev.1), programme 7, Economic and Social Affairs, subprogramme 6, Population.

5. The present report focuses on the research and other activities carried out by the Population Division during 2008, grouped by thematic area, and provides a substantive summary of the activities and outputs of the Division, which include the substantive servicing of intergovernmental bodies, the preparation of parliamentary documentation and technical publications, the organization of expert meetings and the dissemination of results, including various forms of outreach through the Internet. A list of activities and outputs is presented in the annex.

II. Fertility and family planning

6. In the area of fertility, the Population Division completed the compilation and revision of two databases: World Fertility Data 2008[6] and World Marriage Data 2008.[7] The databases present both period and cohort indicators of fertility and marriage based on national statistics. Their coverage has been expanded to 224 countries or areas, including all 192 Member States. The database on fertility provides, for each country, five values covering the period 1970-2007 for each of six indicators: total fertility, age-specific fertility rates, mean age at childbearing, number of births, crude birth rate and mean number of children ever born per woman. The database on marriage includes the number of marriages and divorces, the crude marriage rate and the crude divorce rate, the singulate mean age at marriage for both sexes and the distribution of the population by sex and marital status by five-year age group (from 15-19 to 60-64).

7. To document levels and trends of contraceptive use, a wall chart[8] and an Excel data set on CD-ROM[9] have been issued. Both provide the most recent national data available on contraceptive use and the unmet need for family planning for 169 countries or areas, accounting for 99.7 per cent of the global number of women aged 15-49 who are married or in union. They show that contraceptive prevalence among married women of reproductive age has reached 63 per cent at the world level, although it remains low, usually below 20 per cent, in the majority of the least developed countries with data available. There is great variety in the use of the different contraceptive methods among countries and regions. In the more developed regions, the pill and the condom are the most commonly used methods, whereas in the less developed regions, the most popular methods are female sterilization and the intrauterine device (IUD). *World Contraceptive Use 2007* also presents estimates of the pace of change of contraceptive use for countries having carried out between 1985 and 2006 at least two nationally representative surveys of women.

8. The Population Division produces three indicators under the target of universal access to reproductive health of the revised framework for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: (a) contraceptive prevalence rate, (b) adolescent birth rate, and (c) unmet need for family planning. The last-mentioned is produced in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In 2008, the Division provided updated estimates for each of the indicators and their corresponding metadata, including definitions and methods of computation, to the Millennium Development Goals database maintained by the United Nations

[6] POP/DB/FFP/Fert/Rev.2008.

[7] POP/DB/FFP/Mar/Rev.2008.

[8] *World Contraceptive Use 2007* (United Nations publication Sales No. E.08.XIII.6).

[9] POP/DB/CP/Rev.2007.

Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. In addition to those indicators, the Population Division has also provided the Millennium Development Goals database with complementary data on prevalence of modern method use, on prevalence of condom use, and on the spacing and limiting components of the unmet need for family planning.

III. Mortality and health

9. In the area of mortality and health, the Population Division convened the Second Coordination Meeting on the Estimation of Adult Mortality at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 31 July 2008. Participants included representatives of key institutions active in the study and estimation of mortality, including relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, offices of the regional commissions, national statistical offices, universities and research organizations. The Meeting reviewed recent progress in methodological developments for estimating mortality in countries with deficient data and identified future directions for research and collaboration. The report of the Meeting is in preparation.

10. At the Meeting, the Population Division presented the results of its efforts to extend the application of the General Growth Balance (GGB) method, which is used to adjust mortality estimates when coverage of deaths is deficient, to cases where international migration is a significant component of population change. This work involved the development of a modified application of the General Growth Balance method and tests of its performance in countries experiencing significant net international migration. In addition, the Division continued its work in developing a two-parameter log-quadratic model life table system by examining how well it fitted mortality above age 60. This evaluation is important because, at current mortality levels, a high proportion of all deaths in most middle-income developing countries already occur above age 60.

11. The Population Division collaborated in the organization and servicing of the high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals which was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 September 2008. The Division served as the focal point for the organization of the round table on education and health at the high-level event and led an inter-agency team that collaborated in the preparation of the sections on education and health of the background note by the Secretary-General, of 25 July 2008, entitled "Committing to action: achieving the Millennium Development Goals"[10] and the addendum thereto, of 18 September 2008, entitled "MDG action points"[11] submitted by the Secretary-General to the high-level event. The Division provided the substantive servicing for the round table itself and collaborated in the preparation of the closing statement delivered by the Secretary-General to the event. The high-level event was successful in reaffirming both the political and the financial commitments to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those related to health and education.

12. During 2008, the Population Division continued to participate actively in the Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, whose objective is to coordinate efforts to monitor progress made towards the achievement of Millennium

[10] http://www.un.org/milleniumgoals/2008highlevel/pdf/committing.pdf.

[11] http://www.un.org/milleniumgoals/2008highlevel/pdf/addendum.pdf.

Development Goal 4 regarding the reduction of infant and under-five mortality. The Inter-agency Group had been established in 2004 with the Population Division, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank as members. It is led by UNICEF and WHO. In 2008, the Population Division assisted the Inter-agency Group in the revision and updating of the database on infant and under-five mortality estimates maintained by UNICEF.

13. In order to permit a better assessment of the gender dimensions of child mortality, the Population Division has been undertaking an analysis of the sex differentials in child mortality, producing estimates by sex of infant mortality ($_1q_0$), child mortality ($_4q_1$) and under-five mortality ($_5q_0$) for as many countries as possible. Preliminary results reveal that, as expected because of biological factors, in most countries studied boys are subject to higher risks of dying in childhood than girls; however, the size of the female advantage varies considerably among countries and between the world's major areas. Furthermore, trends in sex differentials also show considerable variation and are not always indicative of outcomes that improve equally for boys and girls. The results of this analysis will yield valuable information for guiding policy development and interventions directed towards the attainment of Millennium Development Goal 4.

14. The Population Division has made substantial progress in the compilation of data suitable for the estimation of mortality, including documentation of data sources. An inventory of data sources is included in "World Mortality Report 2007".[12] The report contains estimates for a number of mortality indicators over the period 1950-2005 for 195 countries or areas with at least 100,000 inhabitants in 2005. The estimates are consistent with the results of *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision*.[13] An analysis of mortality levels and trends for the major areas is presented in the Report, together with an overview of the availability of data relevant to the estimation of mortality. The data contained in the Report have been issued on CD-ROM.[14]

15. In order to facilitate access to the various types of data available for the estimation of mortality, the Population Division, in collaboration with the Department of Demography of the University of California, Berkeley, has been developing a database containing both the basic data needed for mortality estimation and relevant metadata. Data generated by vital registration systems, population surveillance systems, population censuses and surveys are being compiled. A meeting with researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, was held in New York in June 2008 in order to coordinate activities.

IV. International migration

16. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 61/208 and 62/270, the Population Division prepared the report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development (A/63/265), which was considered by the Assembly during its sixty-third session. The report presented, inter alia, options for follow-up to the 2006

[12] ST/ESA/SER.A/281.

[13] *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision, CD-ROM Edition: Extended Dataset in Excel and ASCII Formats* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.7).

[14] POP/DB/MORT/2007.

High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development derived from the views submitted by Member States in response to a structured inquiry conducted by the Division. While most of the 64 Member States that responded to the inquiry considered that the Global Forum on Migration and Development, as a voluntary, State-led process, had been a useful outcome of the High-level Dialogue, they also saw the need for follow-up to the Dialogue within the United Nations itself. After considering the options proposed, the Assembly, in its resolution 63/225 of 19 December 2008, decided to hold another high-level dialogue in 2013, following a one-day informal thematic debate to be held in 2011. The report of the Secretary-General also provided an overview of activities on international migration and development undertaken by all relevant bodies, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant international and regional organizations in follow-up to the Dialogue and assessed efforts by regional and interregional cooperation mechanisms and regional consultative processes to include development considerations in their deliberations or activities on international migration. Pursuant to resolution 62/270, the report was made available to participants in the second meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, held in Manila from 27 to 30 October 2008.

17. The Population Division, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), organized an Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development in Asia and the Pacific, which was held at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok on 20 and 21 September 2008. The meeting considered four themes: (a) international migration trends in Asia and the Pacific in the global context; (b) regional migration policies and cooperation mechanisms; (c) labour migration; and (d) international migration and development. The Meeting brought together international experts and policymakers from countries of origin and destination in Asia and the Pacific, including members of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Meeting concluded that: (a) the impact of international migration on host societies depended on the size of the migrant population and varied according to setting; (b) under certain circumstances, governance structures could hamper rather than facilitate regular migration and could even provide incentives to bypass regular channels; (c) circular migration programmes and other programmes of temporary labour migration, while fostering development in countries of origin, were only a partial answer to structural labour shortages in countries of destination; (d) Governments relying on labour migration had to make greater efforts to promote decent work for both their nationals and migrants; (e) remittances provided a safety net to families left behind; (f) the allocation of remittances to consumption, savings or investment should be made freely by migrants and their families, since remittances were their private funds and should not be controlled in any way by Governments; (g) development policies should take account of their potential impact on international migration and of the development effects of migration; and (h) men and women should be afforded the same opportunities to migrate.

18. The Population Division also collaborated with ESCAP in organizing the Asia-Pacific High-level Meeting on International Migration and Development, held at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok, on 22 and 23 September 2008. Representatives of 22 member States of ESCAP and of relevant international organizations, as well as a number of experts serving as resource persons, participated in the High-level Meeting. The Meeting comprised a plenary session and four thematic round tables, which focused on: (a) the role of remittances in development; (b) international

migration and development in countries with special needs; (c) the social dimensions of migration; and (d) migration data and research. Experts made presentations on each of the themes with a view to informing and guiding the ensuing discussion. Participating Member States agreed that remittances had positive impacts on countries of origin and, particularly, on the families that received them. It was suggested that the Governments of the least developed countries, including landlocked and small island States, needed to develop strategies to strengthen linkages with their migrants abroad in order to realize the benefits of migration, particularly by attracting back migrants with needed skills. Participants stressed that providing benefits to returning migrants that were not afforded to citizens who had not migrated was a source of inequities and should be avoided. The importance was underscored of developing programmes designed to train women before they migrated and it was suggested that such training include information about the rights that migrant women should be able to enjoy while abroad. Delegates recognized that data disaggregated by sex and age were essential as a basis for sound policy formulation and called for efforts to exploit all relevant data sources so as to obtain information on their nationals living abroad. In this regard, they stressed the importance of using the 2010 round of population censuses to fill key data gaps and recommended that better use should be made of administrative data sources and surveys to generate information on migrants. Delegates further noted the need to expand research on the impact of international migration on developing countries that already hosted significant numbers of migrants.

19. The Population Division organized the Seventh Coordination Meeting on International Migration, which was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 20 and 21 November 2008. The Meeting was attended by a total of more than 80 representatives of agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and of other relevant intergovernmental and regional organizations as well as of a number of civil society organizations, including research institutes. The chairpersons of the second and third meetings of the Global Forum on Migration and Development informed participants of the main achievements of the Forum following the holding of its second meeting in Manila and about the plans for the third meeting which would be held in Athens in November 2009. The Meeting continued with a discussion of follow-up to the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, an exchange of information on current and planned activities on international migration and development, and a preliminary assessment of the impact of the financial crisis on international migration and remittance flows.

20. In response to the growing demand for data on international migrants, the Population Division had developed the United Nations Global Migration Database,[15] which is accessible on a password-protected Internet site. The database includes the most complete set of data on the stock of international migrants classified by origin, sex and age at the national level. Depending on national data sources, country of origin is reported in terms either of country of birth or of country of citizenship. The data are derived mostly from censuses or, in some cases, from population registers. The database allows users to download the information available on a particular country of origin or a particular country of destination. The Division is using the data compiled in the database to derive global estimates of the

[15] http://esa.un.org/unmigration/.

migrant stock classified by age and sex. Analysis of the data by both country of origin and country of destination is being carried out in collaboration with the World Bank. UNICEF and the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have provided financial support for the development of the database. The United Nations Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the World Bank, the University of Sussex and the Minnesota Population Center (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series-International (IPUMS-International)) have been important sources of the basic data included in the database.

21. As part of its work on the estimation of levels and trends of international migration, the Population Division has issued the 2008 Revision of Trends in Total Migrant Stock[16] on CD-ROM. This Revision provides estimates of the number of international migrants by sex at the start of each quinquennium, beginning in 1960 and ending with a projected figure for 2010, for each of 234 countries or areas.

22. With support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Population Division has continued to provide support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development, who is the main link between the United Nations and the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

23. During 2008, the Population Division continued to provide substantive support to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs in his capacity as member of the Global Migration Group, a consultative mechanism constituted by the heads of 12 agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, a representative of the regional commissions and the head of the International Organization for Migration. In 2008, the Global Migration Group produced a joint report on international migration and human rights[17] to which the Division had contributed by providing input on the importance of migration data for assessing the status of respect for human rights.

V. World population projections

24. The preparation of biennial population estimates and projections for all countries and areas of the world is a key part of the mandate of the Population Division. The results of this activity have considerable impact both inside and outside the United Nations system. The official United Nations population estimates and projections, as well as the urban and city projections, are key inputs for several analytical reports prepared by the Division, such as *World Population Ageing*, the *World Fertility Report*, the *World Mortality Report* and the *World Migration Report*. In addition, key publications on data and indicators prepared by entities of the United Nations system use as input the official United Nations population estimates and projections prepared by the Division. Those entities relying on population data generated by the Division include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNDP,

[16] POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008.

[17] Global Migration Group, *International Migration and Human Rights: Challenges and Opportunities on the Threshold of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (New York, United Nations Population Fund, October 2008).

UNFPA, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNICEF, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the World Bank. Researchers, academics and the media also make ample use of the Division's population estimates and projections.

25. In 2008, the Population Division issued the results of the 2007 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects in the publication entitled "Highlights of World Urbanization Prospects: the 2007 Revision".[18] The data have been made available via an interactive online database[19] as well as in two wall charts, one entitled *Urban and Rural Areas 2007*[20] and the other, *Urban Agglomerations 2007*.[21] Detailed data on urban and rural areas (Dataset 1) and on urban agglomerations (Dataset 2) from *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision* were released on CD-ROM.[22] According to the 2007 Revision, the world urban population will likely increase by 3.1 billion, from 3.3 billion to 6.4 billion, between 2007 and 2050. The expected rise in the urban population surpasses that for the whole world population over the same period (2.5 billion), implying that urban areas are expected to absorb not only all the population growth expected over the next four decades but also some of the rural population through rural-urban migration or through the transformation of rural settlements into urban centres. As a result, the world rural population is projected to start decreasing in about a decade and 0.6 billion fewer rural inhabitants are expected in 2050 compared with today (representing a decline from 3.4 billion in 2007 to 2.8 billion in 2050).

26. In early 2008, the Population Division issued two volumes of the *2006 Revision of World Population Prospects: Comprehensive Tables* (vol. I)[23] and *Sex and Age Distribution of the World Population* (vol. II).[24] The *Analytical Report* (vol. III) is under preparation and will be released in 2009. These volumes present or analyse the population estimates and projections for 229 countries or areas of the world over the period 1950-2050. In addition, a wall chart entitled *World Population 2006*[25] was released early in 2008.

27. The Population Division continued its work on the development of a database, DemoData, that integrates all empirical data relevant to the preparation of the biennial revisions of *World Population Prospects*. During 2008, the design of the database structure was completed and records from existing databases were imported. Currently, DemoData contains nearly 20 million data records. During 2008, a graphical user interface for DemoData was developed, making possible the commencement of its use in the preparation of the forthcoming *2008 Revision of World Population Prospects*.

28. The Population Division collaborated with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), ESCAP, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the

[18] ESA/P/WP/205.

[19] http://esa.un.org/unup/index.asp.

[20] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.13.

[21] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.12.

[22] POP/DB/WUP/Rev.2007.

[23] *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision*, vol. I, *Comprehensive Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.2).

[24] *World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision*, vol. II, *Sex and Age Distribution of the World Population* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.3).

[25] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.3.

Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), UNFPA, UNESCO and WHO by sharing with these bodies the preliminary results of the 2008 Revision of World Population Prospects in order to allow them to comment on those results. In addition, the Division provided those entities with technical information on the preparation of the estimates and projections produced and prepared special sets of estimates designed to satisfy their requests.

29. The Population Division also cooperated with the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities in leading the Task Team on Population Estimates. In that role, the Division organized a meeting of the Task Team on 19 and 20 May 2008, which was held via teleconference connecting New York with Bangkok, Santiago and Geneva. The Division drafted the background paper for the meeting reviewing issues and practices in the use of population estimates by international organizations. The Division also prepared the report presented by the Task Team to the Committee at its twelfth session, held in Tunis on 11 and 12 September 2008 (SA/2008/10 of 8 September 2008).

VI. Population policies

30. In order to monitor the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and other internationally agreed development goals that are related to population, including the relevant Millennium Development Goals, the Population Division launched, in 2008, the United Nations Tenth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. The Inquiry, which was sent to all permanent missions to the United Nations in New York in 2008, requests Governments to furnish information on their views and policies with respect to a wide array of population and development issues. For the first time, the Inquiry was also made available in an online version. During 2009 and 2010, the responses to the Inquiry will be analysed and the results incorporated in a number of publications issued by the Population Division, including *World Population Policies 2009*.

31. In the area of international migration policy, the Population Division initiated a study on government structures relevant for the governance of international migration. To that end, the Division developed a framework for describing the comprehensive set of potential interactions between government entities and international migrants, such as those pertaining to the issuance of visas and permits, the granting of asylum and citizenship, the preparation of migrants for emigration, and the management of the social and economic aspects of migration. Based on that framework, the Division has compiled information on the Government entities that are actually involved in the management of migration in over 100 countries. On the basis of this information, the Division will analyse the diversity of Government structures involved in the management of immigration, emigration and migrant affairs and relate those findings to efforts under way to improve coherence in the management of migration for the benefit of development.

32. In order to raise awareness among Governments about the importance of population trends for the achievement of the universally agreed development goals, the Population Division organized an expert panel on "The contribution of population policy to the achievement of the internationally agreed development

goals, including the Millennium Development Goals" which was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 15 December 2008. The panellists documented the varied population trends that characterize the world regions today and related them to differences in the efforts made by Governments to develop and implement population policies, particularly in relation to family planning. High population growth is prevalent today in most of the least developed countries and, if continued, will remain an obstacle for the attainment of key development goals, especially the reduction of poverty and hunger. Panellists argued that the large gap between existing donor funding for family planning and that called for in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development was an important factor hampering efforts to moderate population growth in poor countries.

VII. Population and development

33. The Population Division organized the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Population Distribution, Urbanization, Internal Migration and Development, held in New York from 21 to 23 January 2008. The objective of the Meeting was to discuss the implications of the unprecedented scale of the urbanization of the world population. The Meeting brought together 57 experts to present their views and discuss the patterns, causes and implications of the changing spatial distribution of the population in different parts of the world. The Meeting considered the following issues: (a) the effects of the sustained and rapid urbanization of the world population, particularly for developing countries; (b) the policy implications of the fact that, in the majority of developing countries, urban population growth is driven mostly by natural increase and not, as is usually thought, by rural-urban migration; (c) the economic linkages between urban and rural areas; (d) the high prevalence of poverty in rural areas; (e) the rapidly increasing numbers of urban poor; (f) the impact of urbanization on the environment; and (g) ways of improving the living conditions of both urban and rural dwellers. The proceedings of the Expert Group Meeting on Population Distribution, Urbanization, Internal Migration and Development[26] have been published.

34. The Population Division has produced estimates of the urban and rural populations in the 175 countries with more than 300,000 inhabitants in 2005 for the beginning of each quinquennium in the period 1950-2005. The estimates have been issued in digital form on a CD-ROM entitled "Urban and Rural Population by Age and Sex, 1950-2005".[27] A report discussing levels and trends of world urbanization by age and sex is in preparation. Preliminary findings indicate that, globally, the proportion of children in rural areas is lower than that of middle-aged adults. Males tend to be more urbanized than females. In developing countries, a higher proportion of older persons than of adults of working age live in rural areas. Generally, the urban population is more advanced than the rural population in the ageing process, especially in developing countries.

35. The Population Division collaborated with ECLAC in undertaking applied research on population ageing, intergenerational transfers and social protection in five Latin American countries, in the context of the international research project on

[26] ESA/P/WP.206.

[27] POP/DB/PD/URPAS/2008.

national transfer accounts encompassing 25 countries from all major regions of the world. The research progressed significantly during 2008, with all participating countries having produced a full set of estimates of transfer accounts for at least one year. Furthermore, each country has prepared a technical paper on the estimates of intergenerational transfers and their socio-economic implications. The Division assisted the efforts of UNFPA to use the results of this research in a programme designed to strengthen the capacities of developing countries to assess the implications of changing age structures and thus guide policy formulation and development planning.

36. In 2008, the Population Division issued a CD-ROM entitled World Population Ageing 2007,[28] which includes a digital version of the printed volume of the same title published in 2007.[29] The CD-ROM also contains Excel files with all the data presented in the regional and country profiles contained in the published report.

37. In order to provide information for the assessment of the impact of urbanization and the challenges faced by rural populations, the Population Division published two wallcharts in 2008, one entitled *Urban Population, Development and the Environment 2007*[30] and the other, *Rural Population, Development and the Environment 2007*.[31] The wallcharts show that, in 2005, urban settlements occupied 2.7 per cent of the world's land area, yielding an average urban population density of 906 persons per square kilometre (km²) of urban land area. In rural areas, the density of agricultural labour in 2004 had been 90 agricultural workers per km² of cropland. The population density of urban settlement is lower in the more developed regions (482 persons per km²) than in the less developed regions (1,381 persons per km²). Although in most countries and regions, industry and services predominate, agriculture still generates a sizeable share of total output in developing countries. Thus, it accounts for over half of Africa's gross domestic product (GDP). Per capita energy use is 5 times higher in the more developed regions than in the less developed regions and more than 15 times higher in the more developed regions than in the least developed countries. However, because future population growth will take place mostly in developing countries, increases in energy consumption and emissions will also take place primarily in those countries.

38. Rapid population growth during the twentieth century resulted in a major extension of agricultural land. Currently, 12 per cent of the global land area is occupied by cropland and an additional 26 per cent by permanent pastures. Population growth and increased consumption are associated with rapid deforestation, mainly through conversion of forests into agricultural land. Since the 1990s, the pace of net forest loss appears to have decreased slightly, with Asia showing even a stabilization of forest area and Europe and Northern America showing net gains in forest area. The regions experiencing the greatest recent loss of forest area are Africa, which is characterized by very rapid population growth, and Latin America and the Caribbean, where the pace of population growth, though declining, was, during the past two decades, also rapid.

---

[28] POP/DB/WPA/Rev.2007.

[29] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.5.

[30] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.7.

[31] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.10.

VIII. Monitoring, coordination and dissemination of population information

A. Monitoring of population trends and policies

39. The report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring is prepared annually by the Population Division for Submission to the Commission on Population and Development. The 2008 report (E/CN.9/2008/3) was devoted to population distribution, urbanization, internal migration and development, the special theme for the forty-first session of the Commission.

40. The world population monitoring report prepared by the Population Division for the forty-second session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2009/3) focuses on the contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

B. Dissemination of population information and data

41. During 2008, the Population Division continued to update and expand its website in order to provide timely access by Government officials and civil society to population information. The Population Division's website provides access to most publications issued by the Division, usually well in advance of their availability in printed form. Postings on the website include highlights, key findings, papers presented at meetings, proceedings of meetings, population reports, wallcharts, data sets and interactive databases. The site also provides information about the Commission on Population and Development, including the official documentation for its sessions and guidance for non-governmental organizations wishing to participate in the work of the Commission. Traffic statistics indicate that in 2008 the Division's website was visited by some 4,600 users per day, generating approximately 4 million page views for the year.

42. The Population Division also maintains a website focusing exclusively on international migration (http://www.unmigration.org). This website serves as a portal containing links to the numerous international migration activities closely related to the work of the Division, both within and outside the United Nations system, and, as such, includes, inter alia, links and references to the activities of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

43. The Population Division is responsible for maintaining the website of the United Nations Population Information Network (POPIN), although extrabudgetary funding for the project ceased several years ago. The Network is a portal to the population information and data available throughout the United Nations system. Analysis of traffic to the website shows that the Network remains a well-established brand name and is a useful channel for the dissemination of the population information generated by the United Nations system, with the number of visits having totalled close to 150,000 in 2008.

44. The Population Division continued to use its e-mail announcement service to alert subscribers to important news, events and developments concerning Division activities. The service has currently over 1,700 subscribers from all over the world.

Information on Division activities and outputs of particular relevance to developing countries is also distributed regularly to persons and institutions included in various mailing lists.

45. MORTPAK for Windows, the Population Division's software package for demographic estimation, continued to be distributed, mainly among analysts in developing countries who use it for teaching or research purposes.

IX. Technical cooperation

46. The focus of the Population Division's regular programme of technical cooperation is on building and strengthening capacity in developing countries to analyse demographic information needed to guide the formulation and implementation of population policy. During 2008, the Division conducted a survey among governmental units engaged in demographic analysis to determine which areas were most in need of capacity development. The survey indicated that many developing countries lacked the human resources to conduct in-depth demographic analysis. The results of the survey are being used to develop a cost-effective strategy for supporting the building of analytical capacity in developing countries.

47. The Population Division's technical cooperation programme continued to support the development of an innovative web-based multilingual demographic dictionary, "Demopaedia", whose capacity to promote collaborative work across borders in different languages is being tested.

48. The Population Division responded to a request by the Government of Colombia to provide technical backstopping for the Forum on Population and Environment: Challenges Facing Small Oceanic States, which was convened in San Andrés, Colombia, from 23 to 27 August 2008. The Forum brought together 120 participants from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including Government officials, local administrations and community leaders, who discussed the relevance of population dynamics to ensuring the environmental sustainability of small islands.

49. The Population Division collaborated with UNFPA by providing technical support to the International Conference on the Effects of Migration on Population Structures in Europe, organized by the Vienna Institute of Demography/International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis and held in Vienna on 1 and 2 December 2008, and to the subsequent UNFPA Meeting on Migration and its Implications for Development and Population Change in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia Region, held in Vienna on 3 December 2008.

Annex

Publications, expert group meetings and other materials prepared or organized by the Population Division (1 January-31 December 2008)[a]

Expert group meetings

United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Population Distribution, Urbanization, Internal Migration and Development, New York, 21-23 January 2008

Second Coordination Meeting on the Estimation of Adult Mortality, New York, 31 July 2008

Expert Group Meeting on International Migration and Development in Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, 20 and 21 September 2008

Seventh Coordination Meeting on International Migration, New York, 20 and 21 November 2008

Expert panel on "The contribution of population policy to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals", New York, 15 December 2008

Research studies

World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision, vol. I, *Comprehensive Tables* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.2)

World Population Prospects: The 2006 Revision, vol. II, *Sex and Age Distribution of the World Population* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XIII.3)

World Urbanization Prospects: The 2007 Revision: highlights (ESA/P/WP.205)

Proceedings of the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Population Distribution, Urbanization, Internal Migration and Development, New York, 21-23 January 2008 (ESA/P/WP.206)

Databases

Trends in Total Migrant Stock: the 2008 Revision (POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2008)

Urban and Rural Population by Age and Sex, 1950-2005 (POP/DB/PD/URPAS/2008)

World Urbanization Prospects: the 2007 Revision: Dataset 1: Urban and rural areas; and Dataset 2: Urban agglomerations (POP/DB/WUP/Rev.2007)

World Population Ageing 2007 (POP/DB/WPA/Rev.2007)

World Fertility Data 2008 (POP/DB/FFP/Fert/Rev.2008)

World Marriage Data 2008 (POP/DB/FFP/Mar/Rev.2008)

World Contraceptive Use 2007 (POP/DB/CP/Rev.2007)

[a] Not including reports issued as parliamentary documentation.

Wallcharts

World Population 2006 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.3)

World Contraceptive Use 2007 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.6)

Urban Population, Development and the Environment 2007 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.7)

Rural Population, Development and the Environment 2007 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.10)

Urban Agglomerations 2007 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.12)

Urban and Rural Areas 2007 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XIII.13)

Periodicals

Population Newsletter, No. 84 (December 2007)[b]

[b] Covering the period from July to December 2007.